GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6178
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
SPICES CULTIVATION
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give encouragement for cultivation of spices for domestic use and exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly reference to cardamom, pepper, ginger, cloves and nutmeg;

(c) whether there is a proposal for setting up of processing industries of these spices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. In order to increase production, productivity and quality of the spices produced in the country including pepper, ginger, clove and nutmeg, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for development of spices is under implementation in the country. This programme implemented in the 8th Plan has been continued during the 9th Plan with wider area of operation accommodating various components to meet the current development needs of the commodity. Steps taken to encourage spice cultivation in general, include:-

i) Production of nucleus planting materials of high yielding varieties in the nursery centres under ICAR and State Agricultural Universities.
ii) Large scale multiplication and distribution of planting materials of high yielding varieties in the nursery centres attached to the State Government farms.
iii) Adoption of integrated pests and disease management.
iv) Adoption of improved package of practices including integrated nutrient management for sustainable development.
v) Scientific post-harvest handling of the produce through transfer of technology.

Steps taken by the Spices Board for development of cardamom, in particular, include production of planting materials, replanting of senile gardens of cardamom, irrigation and land development in cardamom and extension advisory services.

As regards exports, beside the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market, implementation of brand promotion schemes like `Logo Promotion`, grant of `Spices House Certificate` as arecognition of processor/ exporter of quality products, setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

(c) & (d) Private enterprise is encouraged to take the initiative in food processing activities, including spices processing. Assistance, if any, is extended upon confirmation of viability of a spice processing proposal.